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The NatureKenya Newsletter www.naturekenya.org October 03

TALKS & VIDEOS

Know Kenya Course

Plan to attend this great series of talks and commentaries, organised by the Kenya Museum Society and held at the Louis Leakey Hall, National Museums, Nairobi.

Below are just a few of the planned talks; for a full programme contact KMS info@KenyaMuseumSociety.org

Mon 27 Oct 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Towards the Rainbow: Changing cultural and Social expectations in modern Kenya *by John Sibi Okumu*

Tue 28 Oct 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Female Circumcision *by Fardhosa Mohammed*

Tue 28 Oct 6:00 p.m. Turkana to Lengai: Kenya's Great Rift Valley *by Graham Watson*

Thu 30 Oct 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. A Musical Journey through Kenya *by Mr Anami*

Tue 4 Nov 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Insect Flight: Whirring Wings through time *by Dino Martins*

Tue 4 Nov 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. The Mystery of the Disappearing Frogs *by Damaris Rotich*

Tue 4 Nov 6:00 p.m. The Waters of Kenya *by Imre Loefler*

***Cost for participants**: Full Course, early registration 7500/- Single lecture non KMS members 600/- or 1000/- for two*
Single lecture students 200/- or 250/- for two

Caecilians

by Dr. John Measey

Monday 10 November 03
Louis Leakey Hall, National Museums, Nairobi

World biRd Watch

Safaricom the better option

***Popular Birds of Kenya* posters and Handbook** now available for distribution to schools, offices, colleges etc

Happy Birdwatching

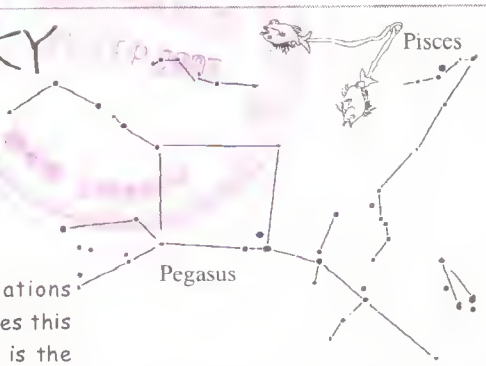
to the teams birdwatching over the weekend of 4 & 5 October 03

Don't forget your World Birdwatch T-Shirt!

This cotton t-shirt will make a wonderful gift and make the perfect attire for the World Birdwatch weekend! Available in at the Nature Kenya front office for 600/-

EVENING SKY

By Ian MacKay and Fleur Ng'weno



Stars, Oct 03

The sky is awash with constellations related to the sea and its creatures this month. High in the southern sky is the bright star Fomalhaut. It is part of the constellation Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish (named by astronomers in the northern hemisphere!).

Between Fomalhaut in the south and the great square of Pegasus high in the north east are several other constellations associated with water. Even Pegasus was an emblem of navigation to the ancient Phoenicians, and the Egyptians saw it as a ship.

Aquarius is between Fomalhaut and Pegasus, Delphinus is leaping overhead and Pisces is rising in the east, just to the right of Pegasus. The shape of Pisces is actually two widely separated fish, joined together by strands of stars in the shape of a "V".

Beyond Pisces (straight east) is another large constellation associated with the sea called Cetus. This sea creature is usually called the Whale, though it was in the distant past considered a monster the like of which has never been seen on land or sea, and therefore couldn't possibly be a whale. The head is rather kite shaped, at the end of a long body built of a string of stars in a row. A somewhat curious shape to associate with a whale, though the head is large enough!

Planets, Oct 03

Mars is high in the sky all this month. On October 6, Mars is just north of the moon. On the 26th, the bright planet Venus is seen very near the moon in the west (look early in the evening to see it).

Moon, Oct 03

2 October *first quarter* (overhead at sunset); 10 October *full moon*; 18 October *last quarter* (rises at midnight); 25 October *new moon*

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

BIRD RINGING

Meet at the Museums' Nairobi Botanic Garden, at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday.

SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, **i.e.19 October**. The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

TREE WALK

Guided Tree Walks in the Arboretum on the second Saturday and last Monday, i.e. **11 & 27 October from 9:30 a.m**. Meet at the Arboretum gate. *Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. *Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.*

ARABUKO-SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **4 October, at 6:30 a.m**. from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person. KWS fees may now apply (100/- Citizens, 500/- Residents)

FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month, i.e. **18 October** Please call Marlene Reid on (041) 491 648 to confirm

Ngong Road Forest Walks (Nairobi)

The Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust Nature walks are held on the first and third Saturdays of the month i.e. 4 **& 18 October, at 9:00 a.m**. Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecourse.

Lake Victoria Sunset Birders (Kisumu)

The Lake Victoria Sunset Birders are a Nature Kenya Site Support Group and organise bird walks at sites in and around Kisumu every Friday of the month. For further details call 035 42952 or email wck@vicweb.net

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any loss, injury, death or damage to property.

IN THE HOUSE

Arabuko Sokoke Forest & Mida Creek: Treasure trove of biodiversity

A short introductory video, on the Arabuko Sokoke Forest, available at the Nature Kenya front office @ 1500/- , in English and German.

FIELD TRIP

Nakuru Expedition

Fri 17 - Sun 19 October '03

Book at the Nature Kenya office with 2000/- for Nature Kenya members (2200/- for non members) by Wednesday 08 October '03.

TAKE NOTE

First Announcement of the 24th International Ornithological Congress

The 24th International Ornithological Congress, will be held in Hamburg, Germany, 13-19 August 2006. The scientific program committee has been formed and a web page is in place http://www.i-o-c.org/

For further info contact:
Susan Hannon (Chair, Scientific Program Committee)
Dept of Biological Sciences
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB, Canada
T6G 2E9

Phone: 780-492-7544
Fax: 780-492-9234
IOC2006@biology.ualberta.ca

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OCTOBER DIARY

Sat 4 & Sun 5	World Birdwatch 03
Sat 4	ASF Birdwalks & NRF walk
Fri 17 - Sun 19	Nakuru Expedition
Sat 18	Tree Walk
Sun 19	Sunday Birdwalk
Mon 27	Tree Walk
Birdwalks every Wednesday Morning	
Bird ringing every Thursday Morning	

Editor, Catherine Ngarachu

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